

strengthens what it fails to subdue. It is important therefore to speak, at this point, a word of honest warning; for the sternness which inheres the look of reproof may shortly become its dominating element. Under certain circumstances, as where a man persists deliberately in his wickedness, Christ's look of reproof ceases to exhibit any interblending of love; it becomes wholly and unmistakably severe. None that see *that* look ever forget it. They cannot forget it, for it burns its inexorable way into the soul.

Men of course who live to-day have never seen the look of reproof which has no mercy in it. Nor shall such *ever* see it unless, like the Devil and his angels, they are to be consumed by it throughout all eternity. A day is coming,—a day which will awaken in unconverted breasts “a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation,”—when Christ shall be seated upon His appointed throne, and when all the human race shall be summoned one by one before Him. The glance of divine reproof, on that dread day, no sinful man shall dare to look upon. As Christ shall pass the irrevocable sentence upon each self-convicted criminal, it is revealed that his eyes shall gleam as flames of fire. His indignation at man's ingratitude, no longer held in restraint, shall verily search and wither the wicked at a glance. Ah, surely, it is the look of *reproof* which has gradually become changed into a look of *ANGER*,—only less than the prior appealing rejected looks of *love*,—which will goad the despair of the lost throughout unending ages!

But it has already been indicated that, in every heart in which there is still a remnant of *sincere desire* to yield loyal service to Christ, the look of reproof may prove to be a look of reformation. The intermingling of divine compassion that is in it may finally and effectually conquer. It may act not merely as a sword to wound, but as a balm to heal. And so out of weakness, there may arise strength; out of darkness, there may emerge light; out of torpor and insensibility and even death, there may emerge the fulness of spiritual life.

It should be the daily petition of every believer that, in his moments of forgetfulness and open transgression, Christ may LOOK upon him with that same glance of reproof which instantly broke the heart of His wayward apostle. He should pray too that that glance may rest upon him, as upon Peter, at the manifestly opportune moment,—to remind him of those vows which he has ignored or consciously broken. He should pray further that that glance